

# Talking UP

## Economic Development UPdates

University Place  
WASHINGTON



July 2020

### ***SPECIAL TIME-SENSITIVE NEWS REGARDING COVID-RECOVERY GRANTS AVAILABLE TO U.P. BUSINESSES***

#### **City of U.P. Approves Distribution of \$500,000 in Federal CARES Act Funds to Local Businesses**

The University Place City Council unanimously approved at its July 6, 2020 meeting to officially accept \$992,700 from the State of Washington as part of the federal CARES Act. The funds will be redistributed into the community to assist with COVID-19 recovery efforts.

Based on recommendations from staff, \$500,000 will be used to support U.P. businesses that have suffered significant economic losses as a result of the state-mandated shutdown that began in mid-March.

"In talking with local businesses, we discovered that a lot of our smaller businesses did not want to incur additional debt," said Mariza Craig, director of Economic Development for the City of U.P. "The federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is a loan program, so we made the conscious decision to distribute our funds as grants that did not require repayment."



The \$500,000 will be divided into two tiers:

- **\$400,000 will be available for distribution to businesses which meet certain additional qualifications (Tier 1 Businesses). These are businesses that paid a minimum of \$10,000 in sales tax in 2019 and operate a storefront in one of the City's commercial zones. Grants up to \$20,000 will be available to these businesses based on number of years in business and number of full-time equivalent employees.**
- **\$100,000 will be available for distribution to businesses which do not meet these additional qualifications (Tier 2 Businesses). These are geared towards smaller businesses, including home-based businesses. They can apply for a minimum grant of \$1,000, plus \$1,000 per full-time equivalent employees, excluding the business owner. Grants under this tier cannot exceed \$5,000 per business.**

**All applicants, regardless of tier level, must meet the following minimum qualifying criteria:**



**1. The business must be located within the City of University Place boundaries.**

**2. The business must possess a valid U.P. business license since March 16, 2019 or meet additional criteria for newly established businesses.**

**3. The business must demonstrate a loss of 25 percent or more in revenue due to COVID-19 impacts (comparing**

**March 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019 with March 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020).**

**4. The business must have 25 or fewer full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) whose primary workstation is within U.P.**

**5. The business should be in good standing, meet other regulatory requirements as necessary, and demonstrate an ability to restart.**

**The first round of business grant applications will open on July 8. All applications must be received by July 22, with the goal of beginning distribution of funds by July 31, 2020.**

**"We believe our business grant program best reflects the input we received from our businesses as well as our Economic Development Advisory Commission," Craig said. "We appreciate the time that everyone took to join us in our virtual meetings so**

that we could develop a comprehensive plan that best reflects the needs of our business community."

For specific grant criteria, including how to access the application, click [here](#).

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## Get Your Window Clings Beginning July 17

The City of University Place Economic Development department will begin distributing free "We're UP and Open" window clings next week.

This is a way for city businesses to let the public know that they are open as part of the state's Safe Start phased reopening program.

There are four unique 18"-by-24" designs that are large enough to be seen from the street.



Pick up your signs from July 17-24 at the following locations:

- **First Financial Northwest Bank, 3555 Market Place W.**  
Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - **Fatz Detail, 7915 27th St. W.**  
Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - **University Place Refuse & Recycling, 2815 Rochester St. W.**  
Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
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## Applicant Sought for Economic Development Advisory Commission



Chuck Foster, a long-time member of the Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC) has moved over to the City's Planning Commission, which means the EDAC is seeking a volunteer to fill the vacated position.

The Economic Development Advisory Commission is comprised of seven citizens that advocate for the implementation of the Economic Development Strategic Action Plan as adopted by the City Council. It serves as a sounding board for various business community interests, and as the "eyes and ears" for the City in the business community.

In addition, the Commission occasionally participates in community outreach efforts to communicate economic development initiatives that impact the University Place community.

For more information on the EDAC and to apply, visit the [cityofup.com/committees-commissions-and-partners](http://cityofup.com/committees-commissions-and-partners) or email [Debra Nicholas](mailto:Debra.Nicholas@cityofup.com). The vacancy will remain open until filled.

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